

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: Daisy Lee Gatson Bates, was born on November 11, 1914, in Huttig, Arkansas. Bates's life began marred by the atrocities of racism when her mother was assaulted and beaten by three white men, leaving her in the care of family friends; and
- WHEREAS: After marrying Lucious Christopher Bates in the early 1940s, Bates and her husband moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, where they operated the *Arkansas State Press*, one of the few weekly African American newspapers that supported civil rights; and
- WHEREAS: Bates became president on the Arkansas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1952 and played a crucial role with desegregation of Arkansas; and
- WHEREAS: Despite the 1954 Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, African American students in Arkansas who tried to enroll in white schools were frequently turned away; and
- WHEREAS: After careful vetting, nine students—later known as the Little Rock Nine—were chosen to integrate Little Rock Central High School with Bates acting as their leader and mentor; and
- WHEREAS: On September 4, 1957, the Little Rock Nine arrived at Little Rock Central High School where they were met by a mob of angry white students, parents, and other members of the community. This, in combination with the Arkansas National Guard sent by Governor Faubus, prevented the African American students from entering the building. It was not until September 24 that the Little Rock Nine, with the assistance of federal troops, could finally attend classes; and
- WHEREAS: Bates served as a personal advocate and supporter to the Little Rock Nine, and her home was used as headquarters for the battle for integration. Her house was subject to gunfire, cross-burnings, and other acts of anti-integration violence. During the 1957-58 school year, Bates, the Little Rock Nine, and their respective families and friends faced fierce animosity, including death threats; and
- WHEREAS: Bates published her personal account of the school integration in 1960 in *The Long Shadow of Little Rock: A Memoir*; and
- WHEREAS: In the mid-1960s, Bates returned to Little Rock after living in Washington D.C. where she worked for the Democratic National Committee and President Lyndon B. Johnson. From 1984-1988, Bates restarted her and her husband's newspaper before her eventual passing on November 4, 1999; and
- WHEREAS: The Arkansas General Assembly voted to replace its existing statues in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. Bates was chosen as one of statues to be displayed, serving as a tribute to her tireless, courageous efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, as

DAISY GATSON BATES DAY

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge my fellow citizens to honor and remember the legacy of Daisy Bates and the impact she has had on civil rights, not only in the State of Arkansas, but in the nation as well.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord 2022.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asa Hutchinson".

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Thurston".  
John Thurston, Secretary of State